

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-17 are pending.

Claims 10-14 and 17 are currently amended. Claims 9 and 18 are canceled. No new matter has been added.

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1 and 3-8. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 10 and 12-17 recited allowable subject matter.

Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the features of base claim 9. Applicant submits that claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 11-17 depend from claim 10 and, therefore, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this response should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this response, and the remarks herein do not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claims.

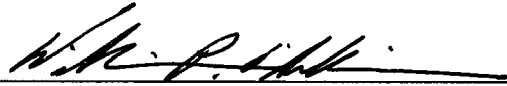
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Serial No. : 10/561,552
Filed : March 20, 2006
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Attorney's Docket No.: 19415-0005US1 / PCT-04R-
155/US

No fee is believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account
No. 06-1050, referencing Docket No. 19415-0005US1.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 17, 2008



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